

Multi-Cultural Affairs

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Minority Assistance Program, McNair and Student Support Services

Your are invited to the 1st Annual
"Building Academic Success"
Student Retreat



Date: Saturday February 13, 1999
Time: 9:00-2:00p.m.
Place: City Campus Union

Watch the Daily Nebraskan, C-VIS and your mail for more information, or call 472-2027
See You There!

Asthma Patients Wanted for Asthma Research Study

Males/Females at least 15 years old using inhaler such as
Albuterol, Ventolin or Proventil as needed. Nine office
visits over approx. 6 months. Free study-related exam &
Study Medication.

Compensation for Participation.
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COURTESY PHOTO

HANK MITCHELL (Bill Paxton, left) reassures his brother Jacob (Billy Bob Thornton) in "A Simple Plan," a typical caper about greed, deceit and family that winds up with atypical twists.

'Simple Plan' isn't so simple

■ Sam Raimi and Scott B. Smith load their movie with paranoia, greed, lies, violence, money and Billy Bob Thornton, so of course it's got to be good.

BY JEFF RANDALL
Senior staff writer

First impressions may mean everything, but "A Simple Plan" is a film that defies first impressions.

The film's trailers make it look and sound like a visual remake of " Fargo." The film's plot synopsis sounds like a thousand other crime-caper stories.

But "A Simple Plan" treads familiar ground only on its surface. Just beneath it, director Sam Raimi and screenwriter Scott B. Smith infuse this tale with emotion, surprise and deft pacing. And the cast, led by Bill Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton, is equally compelling.

The plot goes something like this — Hank Mitchell (Paxton) is a responsible husband and soon-to-be father who, along with his slow-witted older brother Jacob (Thornton) and his brother's alcoholic best friend Lou (Brent Briscoe), finds \$4 million in a

downed plane in the woods. This motley trio decide to split the money among themselves after sitting on it for a few months, just to make sure no one comes looking for it.

But soon enough, the threesome's paranoia, greed and anxiety take over, turning their plan into an irreversible mess. Bodies start piling up, more laws start to get broken and all of the characters slowly begin to realize what they've gotten themselves into.

The mental and eventually physical struggles between the characters create a tense atmosphere throughout the film. And the uncharacteristic visual restraint of director Raimi pushes this tension to the forefront, rather than relegating it to subplot status.

Smith's screenplay moves along well and throws in enough subtle sidetracks to keep things interesting.

Paxton is convincing as an honest man who finds himself corrupted by his seemingly innocent ideas, as is Briscoe, who seems particularly at ease in the role of a down-and-out alcoholic. Bridget Fonda is a bit uneven as Paxton's wife, who is shocked at first by her husband's actions but soon becomes a willing accomplice.

But the film's best performance comes courtesy of Thornton, who surpasses even his past performances in "Sling Blade" and "One False

Film Review The Facts

Title: "A Simple Plan"
Stars: Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton, Bridget Fonda, Brent Briscoe
Director: Sam Raimi
Rating: R (language, violence, sexual content)
Grade: A
Five Words: Conventional story with unconventional twists

Move" as the dimwitted Jacob. As the tragedies and complications in his life arise, Thornton's character methodically evolves from a day-to-day slacker into a morally driven, philosophical man. Through his conversations with other characters, especially with Paxton's, he reveals every subtlety of his character; and he does so in good time, always knowing when to let the next trait slip.

At the end of it all, it seems as though Jacob is a personification of what "A Simple Plan" is all about — the corruption of blind innocence, and its equally disheartening and uplifting results.

Much more than a remake or a rehash, "A Simple Plan" is a film that knows not only what to give its audience, but thankfully also knows when to say when.

New Releases

Zack Hexum
"Introducing ..."
What Have You Records
Grade: B+

It can take local musicians several years to get a break they need. For jazz prodigy Zack Hexum, it was as easy as asking his big brother.

Zack Hexum, the younger brother of Nick Hexum, lead vocalist and guitarist of 311, has shown that there is yet more musical talent in the family.

Zack is a 20-year-old who attends North Texas State, which is considered the top jazz saxophone school in the nation. There, Zack plays lead tenor in the top lab band. He has also recently released his first album with the obvious title "Introducing ..."

"Introducing ..." proves that having a brother in the music industry is not without its perks.

The album is produced by Nick Hexum and has been released on his own What Have You Records, the same label that released 311's Omaha released records, "Dammit!," "Unity" and "Hydroponic." The record was mixed by 311 producer Scott "Scotch" Ralston, adding some big names to a debut album.

However, of the 311 talent pool used, the biggest effect on

"Introducing ..." is from 311's drummer Chad Sexton. While 311's sound doesn't involve many jazz beats, Sexton's rudimentary drum back-ground gives a fresh feel to the music, loosely playing styles ranging from jazz to almost hip-hop.

Still, Zack Hexum is the real star here. His funky jazz style incorporates numerous instruments, including tenor, alto and soprano saxophones, flute, keyboards, piano, guitar and bass, all of which he plays himself.

Plus, all of the songs were written by Zack and each features a different style, such as jazz with reggae, funk and salsa grooves.

With Zack not afraid to twist the songs in all different directions as he goes, the solos really stand out.

Favorites include "Hective," characterized by its strong, recurring



melody, as well as the subtle "Last Night's Dream," with its mild saxophone that occasionally will go after a high note. Directly contrasting "Last Night's Dream" is "What the Hell," where Sexton drops some fat beats in the style of 311's "Don't Stay Home."

Above all, "Introducing ..." is a nice and relaxing debut by an artist who should be making a big name for himself in years to come.

—Patrick Miner

Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity



This annual award is presented to one, two or three people (students, faculty or staff at UNL). It recognizes significant contributions to the development of a humane, educationally creative, just, and caring community on the UNL campus.

Nominations for the award may be submitted by anyone associated with UNL. More information, nomination forms, and guidelines are available at:

- IFC-Panhellenic, NU 332
- Residence Hall front desks, SA's & Maintenance offices
- Most college, school and division offices
- Student Involvement offices, NU 200 & ECU 300
- Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St.
- Human Resources, Admin. 407
- Facility Maintenance & Landscape Service offices
- Office of Student Affairs, Admin. 106
- Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th 68588-0440 - 476-0355
- Website: <http://www.unl.edu/tidball/>

Nominations are due February 8, 1999

ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!

Have you completed the student insurance waiver form?

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Waivers can be completed at
the University Health Center,
15th & U Streets.
Call 472-7435 for more info.

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